



ASHBY

Middlesex County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Ashby is a small rural community with a friendly atmosphere, located in the north central section of Massachusetts. It is a residential community that retains many of the farms and orchards that have enhanced the residents' pride in its beauty. The town is also home of the Willard Brook State Park, which provides recreational activities for town residents, as well as those from throughout the State that come to enjoy its offerings.

The town is also prideful of its rich and varied history. From pre-colonial times to the Revolutionary War, Ashby played an instrumental role in the formation of the Colony and Independence. The town's historic burial grounds provide testimony to this. In the pre-Civil War era, the town was a station on the Underground Railway for slaves going to Canada. The twentieth century saw the development of mills, and service in two World Wars to Desert Storm.

Throughout it all, the character and pride of the town has grown, leading to a high degree of community spirit and service.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by New Ipswich and Mason, New Hampshire, on the north; Townsend on the east; Lunenburg and Fitchburg on the southeast and south; and Ashburnham on the west. Ashby is 8 miles north of Fitchburg, 32 miles north of Worcester, and 49 miles northwest of Boston.

Total Area: 24.17 sq. miles

Land Area: 23.80 sq. miles

Population: 2,717

Density: 114 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Ashby, Ashburnham

Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Fitchburg-Leominster



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 386-2427

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1767

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
--------	---

Total Registered 1,604

Democrats 232 14.5 % Republicans 203 12.7 % Other parties 1 0.1 % Unenrolled Voters 1,168 72.8 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Ashby town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	2,845	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	2,845	100.0
Male.....	1,428	50.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	24	0.8
Female.....	1,417	49.8	Mexican.....	7	0.2
Under 5 years.....	166	5.8	Puerto Rican.....	9	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	228	8.0	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	254	8.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	8	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	232	8.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	2,821	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	105	3.7	White alone.....	2,774	97.5
25 to 34 years.....	281	9.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	600	21.1	Total population.....	2,845	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	496	17.4	In households.....	2,831	99.5
55 to 59 years.....	115	4.0	Householder.....	978	34.4
60 to 64 years.....	97	3.4	Spouse.....	671	23.6
65 to 74 years.....	161	5.7	Child.....	956	33.6
75 to 84 years.....	87	3.1	Own child under 18 years.....	729	25.6
85 years and over.....	23	0.8	Other relatives.....	196	4.8
Median age (years).....	38.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	48	1.7
18 years and over.....	2,047	72.0	Nonrelatives.....	90	3.2
Male.....	1,019	35.8	Unmarried partner.....	53	1.9
Female.....	1,028	36.1	In group quarters.....	14	0.5
21 years and over.....	1,936	68.0	Institutionalized population.....	14	0.5
62 years and over.....	331	11.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	271	9.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	111	3.9	Total households.....	978	100.0
Female.....	160	5.6	Family households (families).....	783	80.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	387	39.6
One race.....	2,816	99.0	Married-couple family.....	671	68.6
White.....	2,789	98.0	With own children under 18 years.....	342	35.0
Black or African American.....	8	0.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	77	7.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	6	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	36	3.7
Asian.....	10	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	195	19.9
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	148	15.1
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	55	5.6
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	420	42.9
Japanese.....	2	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	203	20.8
Korean.....	8	0.3	Average household size.....	2.89	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.25	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,011	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	978	96.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	33	3.3
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	11	1.1
Some other race.....	3	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	29	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	978	100.0
White.....	2,818	99.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	899	91.9
Black or African American.....	8	0.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	79	8.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	12	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.95	(X)
Asian.....	18	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.25	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	17	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



EDUCATION

[Department of Education School District Profile, 1997-1998](#)
[School Directory](#)



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway is State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 31, which runs N-S, and State Route 119, which runs E-W across the town.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available in neighboring Fitchburg (travel time 85-94 min.; no MBTA parking). There is no freight rail service in Ashby, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Eastern Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Ashby is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA) but does not receive services.

Other

The Fitchburg Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,511' and 3,502' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-Precision.

Commuting to Work (Means of Transportation to Work, Travel Time) [U.S. Census Bureau Tables](#) LAND USE CLASSIFICATION

* (Office of Environmental Affairs 1985)

	Acres	
Residential	783	5.1%
Commercial	29	0.2%
Industrial	3	0.0%
Transportation	3	0.0%
Agriculture	1,186	7.7%
Urban Open Land	35	0.2%
Recreation	82	0.5%
Water	255	1.7%
Other	13,029	84.6%

* Cape Cod communities updated 1992

ZONING REGULATIONS

(Supplied by community 1993)

Single	Two	Multi
Family	Family	Family

Minimum lot size (sf)	40,000	n/a	n/a
Minimum lot width or frontage (ft)	100	n/a	n/a

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

(Supplied by community 1993)

Comprehensive Plans	No
Rent Control	No
Condominium Controls	No
Groundwater Protection	No
Subdivision Control Laws	Yes
Site Plan Approval Required	No
Other Growth Limits	No



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.